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JUN 20 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,856,975	:	
Issue Date: February 15, 2005	:	
Application No. 09/540,193	:	REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
Filed: March 30, 2000	:	
Attorney Docket No. 200004402-0002	:	

This is a decision on the petition, filed April 23, 2012, under 37 CFR 1.378(b) to accept an unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee in an expired patent.

The petition is **dismissed**.

Petitioner should submit the requested information within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this letter. Extensions of time may not be obtained. No additional fee is due for a response to the instant request for information. The response to this Requirement for Information should include a cover letter entitled "Response to Request for Information." The failure to file a reply to the instant Request for Information will be interpreted as a desire to no longer pursue reinstatement of the patent and the Office will give no further consideration to the matter.

Any petition to accept an unavoidably delayed payment of a maintenance fee must include:

- (1) the required maintenance fee set forth in §1.20 (e)-(g);
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.20(i)(1); and
- (3) a showing that the delay was unavoidable since reasonable care was taken to ensure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent. The showing must enumerate the steps taken to ensure timely payment of the maintenance fee, the date and the manner in which patentee became aware of the expiration of the patent, and the steps taken to file the petition promptly.

The merits of the petition will not be addressed because the petition is not accompanied by the required \$700.00 surcharge and the 3 ½ year maintenance fee of \$565.00. Petitioner submitted only \$310.00.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITION
 Commissioner for Patents
 Post Office Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petition
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

By FAX: (571) 273-8300 - ATTN: Office of Petitions

By internet: EFS-Web
 www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs_help.html
 (for help using EFS-Web call the
 Patent Electronic Business Center
 at (866) 217-9197)

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shirene Willis Brantley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirene Willis Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions